

ANALYSIS

This ordinance repeals those provisions of Title 27 - Electrical Code of the Los Angeles County Code, which had incorporated portions of the 2004 Edition of the California Electrical Code by reference, and replaces them with provisions incorporating by reference portions of the 2007 California Electrical Code, published by the California Building Standards Commission, with certain changes and modifications. Unless deleted or modified herein, the previously enacted provisions of Title 27 continue in effect.

State law requires that the County's Electrical Code impose the same requirements as are contained in the building standards published in the California Electrical Code except for changes or modifications deemed reasonably necessary by the County because of local climatic, geologic, or topographic conditions.

The changes and modifications to requirements contained in the building standards published in the 2007 California Electrical Code which are contained in this ordinance are based upon express findings contained in the ordinance, that such changes are reasonably necessary due to local climatic, geologic, or topographic conditions.

RAYMOND G. FORTNER, JR.
County Counsel

By



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07/17/07 (Requested)

09/25/07 (Revised)

ORDINANCE NO. _____

An ordinance amending Title 27 - Electrical Code of the Los Angeles County Code by adopting portions of the 2007 California Electrical Code, by reference, with certain changes and modifications, and making other revisions thereto.

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 089-7 of Article 89, Article 90, Chapters 1 through 9, and Appendices A, B, C, D and E are hereby repealed.

SECTION 2. Article 80 is hereby amended to read as follows:

ARTICLE 80.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 80-1. Title

Title 27 of the Los Angeles County Code shall be known as the "Electrical Code," may be cited as such, and will be referred to herein as "this Code."

Sec. 80-1.5. California Electrical Code (CEC) Adoption by Reference

Except as hereinafter changed or modified, Sections ~~89.7~~89.102 through ~~89.114~~ of Article 89, Article 90, and Chapters 1 through 9, and Annexes A, B, C, D, E, and F of that certain Electrical code known and designated as the "2007 California Electrical Code, ~~20014 Edition,~~" as published by the California Building Standards Commission are adopted by reference and incorporated into this Title 27 of the Los Angeles County Code as if fully set forth below, as Sections ~~89.7~~89.102 through ~~89.114~~ of Article 89, Article 90, and Chapters 1 through 9, and Annexes A, B, C, D, E, and F of Title 27 of the Los Angeles County Code.

A copy of the 2007 California Electrical Code, ~~2004 Edition~~, hereinafter referred to as the CEC, ~~including the above designated Annexes or portions thereof~~, shall be at all times maintained by the Chief Electrical Inspector for use and examination by the public.

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Sec. 80-11. Definitions

For the purpose of this Code, certain terms, phrases, words and their derivatives shall be construed as set out in this Section. Words used in the singular include the plural and the plural the singular.

Apartment House ~~is any building, or portion thereof, which is designed, built, rented, leased, let or hired out to be occupied, or which is occupied as the home or residence of three or more families living independently of each other and doing their own cooking in the said building, and shall include flats and apartments.~~

Approved ~~means acceptable to the Chief Electrical Inspector.~~

Building ~~is any structure built for the support or shelter of persons, animals, chattles or property of any kind.~~

Dwelling ~~is any building or any portion thereof which is not an "Apartment House" or a "Hotel," as defined in this Code, which contains one or more "Apartments" or "Guest Rooms," used, intended or designed to be built, used, rented, leased, let or hired out to be occupied, or which are occupied for living purposes.~~

Dwelling Unit ~~is one or more habitable rooms which are occupied or which are intended or designed to be occupied by one family with facilities for living, sleeping, cooking and eating.~~

Electric or Electrical Wiring means the installation or the alteration of any material, fixture, device, appliance or equipment in or on any building, structure or premises, used or designed or intended to be used to generate, transmit, transform or utilize electric energy.

Grade ~~(adjacent ground elevation) is the lowest point of elevation of the finished surface of the ground, paving or sidewalk within the area between the building and the property line or, when the property line is more than five feet from the building, between the building and a line five feet from the building.~~

Hotel is any building containing six or more rooms intended or designed to be used, or which are used, rented or hired out to be occupied, or which are occupied for sleeping purposes by guests.

Maintenance Electrician is an electrician regularly employed and registered in accordance with the provisions of this Code.

Person is an individual human being, a firm, partnership or corporation, his or their heirs, executors, administrators, assigns, officers or agents, the County of Los Angeles, and any local agency as defined in Section 53090 of the Government Code, or officer thereof.

Service ~~For purposes of interpreting the California Electrical Code, each service drop or lateral to a building shall be considered one service. For purposes of~~

~~determining the fees to be paid, each service and piece of service equipment shall be subject to the fees set forth in Article 82.~~

~~**Service Equipment** includes one or more fused switches, enclosed circuit breakers, panelboards, switchboards, and/or switchgear supplied by one service and intended to constitute the main control and means of cut-off of the electrical supply. One service may include several pieces of service equipment. Permit fees shall be paid for each piece of service equipment.~~

Special Permission is the written consent of the Chief Electrical Inspector.

Tenant Improvement (Electrical) means electrical work altering or adding to the wiring system of an existing tenant space, whether previously occupied or not, in a building that has previously passed final electrical inspection regardless of whether the building is a fully developed building or only a shell.

SECTION 3. Article 81 is hereby amended to read as follows:

ARTICLE 81.

DUTIES OF CHIEF ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR

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Sec. 81-5. ~~Certificates of Approval~~Reserved

~~The Chief Electrical Inspector shall issue upon request a Certificate of Approval for any approved work.~~

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SECTION 4. Article 82 is hereby amended to read as follows:

ARTICLE 82.

PERMITS AND INSPECTION

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Sec. 82-3. Work Requiring a Permit

No person shall install, alter, reconstruct or repair any electrical wiring, devices, appliances, apparatus, or equipment, within or on any building, structure or premises without first obtaining a permit therefor from the Chief Electrical Inspector, except as follows:

(a) Minor repair work, such as the replacement of lamps, switches, receptacle devices, sockets, ~~taping bare joints~~ and the like, or the connection of portable motor and appliances to suitable receptacles which have been permanently installed.

...

~~(c) The repair or replacement of fixed motors, transformers, apparatus, or appliances of the same type and rating in the same location.~~

(d) Electrical wiring, devices, appliances, apparatus, or equipment operating at less than 25 volts and not capable of supplying more than 50 watts of energy.

(e) Low-energy power, control, and signal circuits that are not an integral part of an appliance and in which the power is limited from a source having a rated output of not more than 30 volts and 1,000 volt-amperes.

(f) Temporary Christmas-decorative lighting.

(gf) The installation of temporary wiring for testing or experimental purposes within suitable facilities.

(hg) Replacement of over-current devices of the same type and the same rating.

(ih) Portable generators, portable motors, appliances, tools, power outlets, and other portable equipment connected by means of a cord or cable having an attachment plug.

(ji) Private telephone, intercom, sound and communication systems; provided, however, that the above system(s) do not exceed the value as indicated in (c) and (d) of this section. aA permit shall be obtained for the power supplies required by the above systems.

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Sec. 82-4. Application for Electrical Permits

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The applicant for electrical permits for work exceeding two hundred dollars (\$200) in value shall be a licensed contractor, registered maintenance electrician, homeowner, or authorized government representative.

EXCEPTION: ~~If the Chief Electrical Inspector determines that there is an urgent necessity, he may, in his discretion, consider an application for an electrical permit prepared by persons other than those specified above.~~

The Chief Electrical Inspector may refuse to issue a permit for temporary or permanent service when there is no apparent legally permitted use for the service. In

determining whether a proposed use is legally permitted, the Chief Electrical Inspector may consider not just the provisions of the Electrical Code but all applicable statutes, ordinances, rules and regulations.

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SECTION 5. Article 89 is hereby amended to read as follows:

ARTICLE 89

APPLICATION OF STATE AGENCY AMENDMENTS

Sec. ~~89-189.101.~~ Application of State Agencies

~~Section 89.7 describes the state agencies that adopt building standards, the specific scope of application of the agency responsible for enforcement, and the specific authority of each agency to adopt and enforce such building standards, unless otherwise stated.~~ Following is a list of the state agencies that adopt building standards, the specific scope of application of the agency responsible for enforcement, and the specific statutory authority of each agency to adopt and enforce such building standards, unless otherwise stated.

~~Sections 89-2 through 89-6 of Title 27 of the Los Angeles County Code are hereby reserved.~~

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SECTION 6. Article 690 is hereby amended to read as follows:

ARTICLE 690
SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEMS

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Sec. 690.19.

Disconnecting Means For Multiple Arrays. Where more than one array is combined to form a single output a disconnecting means rated for the output shall be installed immediately adjacent to the combiner box on the output side.

~~Exception~~**EXCEPTION 1:** A disconnecting means as stated above shall not be required if the combiner box is located adjacent to the inverter(s);
~~the disconnecting means as stated above shall not be required.~~

EXCEPTION 2: A disconnecting means as stated above shall not be required if the Solar Photovoltaic System is less than 4KW and is for a single-family dwelling unit.

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SECTION 7. The provisions of this ordinance contain various changes, modifications and additions to the 2007 Edition of the California Electrical Code. Some of those changes are administrative in nature in that they do not constitute changes or modifications to requirements contained in the building standards published in the California Building Standards Code.

Pursuant to California Health and Safety Code sections 17958.5, 17958.7, and 18941.5, the Board of Supervisors hereby expressly finds that all of the changes and modifications to requirements contained in the building standards published in the

California Electrical Code contained in this ordinance, which are not administrative in nature are reasonably necessary because of local climatic, geological, or topographical conditions in the County of Los Angeles as more particularly described in the table set forth below.

ELECTRICAL CODE AMENDMENTS

CODE SECTION	CONDITION	EXPLANATION
690.19	Geological	Emergency situations caused by seismic events may require the disconnection of electrical power in a building. Presently, the CEC does not require a disconnecting means for conductors for multi-arrayed solar photovoltaic systems.

SECTION 8. This ordinance shall become operative on January 1, 2008.

[Title27ElectricalMTYCC]